

Big Camp



"The Big Camp" has become a Hove Park tradition for all Year 7 students, at the end of their first summer term. Our Big Camp breaks the barriers of students who get to do these types of activities. All students take part regardless of postcode, or parental income. All students access the same unforgettable experience.

This year it took place of Friday 1st July, 2022 with everyone taking part in a range of forest school type-activities, such as: making camp fires, team building, obstacle courses, shelter construction and wood crafts, by **Woodland Tribe** (www.woodlandtribe.org). We even had an inflatable planetarium from **The Observatory Science Centre, Herstmonceux** giving students a sky at night experience. (www.the-observatory.org)

This year over 250 students then camped out on the school field after dinner, which was provided by the **Old Skool Bus & Kitchen** (www.oldschoolbusevents.com). The students had an unforgettable time, with one parent emailing to say; **"Please thank all the staff for me. You all went over and above to give them a truly amazing experience"**. Spending a night under the stars, is one of 8 themes that we challenge students to complete, by the time they finish year 8 and move to our Nevill campus. The other themes form part of our **Every Child Should** strategy, with students earning a coloured star badge, for each one completed:

- Contribute and feel part of their local community;
- Spend a night under the stars;
- Show an interest and understanding of the wider world, experiencing the vibrant, diverse cultures and languages;
- Reflect the ethos of our shared values in the way that they participate in the life and community of the school;
- Be captivated by live theatre, music or sport;
- Make a commitment to a club or activity of their choice;
- Show resilience in taking on a new challenge;
- Take pride in representing their house and / or school in an activity or event.

This year over 400 students have camped out overnight, as part of either our **Big Camp, Valley Challenge or Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expeditions**. This is an amazing achievement which can only be achieved with the support and commitment of Hove Park staff, that go above and beyond to make these experiences and opportunities happen.



by Karl Salter,
Hove Park School